

County of Los Angeles Supports HomeWalk 2011

In this time of economic turmoil it is especially important to focus on permanent solutions to ending homelessness in Los Angeles County. United Way of Greater Los Angeles is addressing this through sponsorship of the **Fifth Annual HomeWalk: 5K Run/Walk to End Homelessness**, on **Saturday, November 19, 2011**.

HomeWalk is part of United Way of Greater Los Angeles' year-round campaign to end homelessness. Over the past four years, HomeWalk has mobilized 18,000 walkers, raised \$1.7 million and funded organizations that have moved 9,000 people into permanent housing. The Chief Executive Office encourages all County Employees to get involved in this event to make a difference in the lives of over 51,000 homeless men, women, and children, many of whom are veterans, in the Los Angeles area.

Homelessness and Poverty in L.A.

Los Angeles County is in crisis

- Wages have not kept up with housing costs.
- Over the past 20 years, only the top 1% of salaried workers have seen significant income growth.
- Our percentage of working poor is higher than the U.S. as a whole.

It's no surprise that...



- We're the homeless capital of the nation.
- #1 reason for homelessness is losing a job.
- L.A. County unemployment is in double digits for the first time since May 1993.

Homelessness is a solvable problem

United Way's HomeWalk funding will be utilized to focus on ending homelessness among 2 populations –

- chronically homeless who are the most costly segment- *long-term, disabled, mental health and substance abuse issues.*
- families who represent the fastest growing segment- *short-term, crisis e.g. job loss, catastrophic illness, divorce.*

The approach to achieving this is through a 'housing first' approach: housing individuals while giving them access to support services such as health and mental health treatment. This "emerging model" was designed to move people into housing quickly while giving them the supportive services necessary to stay there. In this model shelters are used as very short-term housing only.



How will the funds be used?

All money raised from HomeWalk is distributed back into the community to help quickly rehouse homeless families and provide permanent housing with supportive services to the chronically homeless. United Way's rapid rehousing partners quickly move homeless families into permanent housing and provide short-term income support and additional support services (food vouchers, access to medical care and day care) to help ensure a successful transition. United Way's permanent supportive housing partners provide subsidized apartments with on-site services available, such as health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. DMH clients that are homeless can benefit from the services that are provided by the funds raised.

How to Get Involved

If you would like to participate in this campaign to end homelessness by walking on November 19th, go to www.HomeWalkLA.org and click on the register tab to join the County Team. Registration is easy and fast. You can begin fundraising immediately by downloading a donation form from the websites and distributing to your friends and co-workers. You can also participate by sponsoring those that are walking by donating funds.

Where is the HomeWalk 2011 Event?



Please come out and join us for HomeWalk 2011!

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Exposition Park

700 Exposition Park Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90037

([See Map](#))